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LOOK INSIDE



No returns

Barry Smith won't be going back to work at the Beer Store on January 1.
See page 2



Far from home

Cheryl Ripley will be celebrating Christmas in Honduras for the first time.
See page 3



Red Hawk action

High school sports teams won't be resting on their laurels this holiday.
See pages 12 & 13

In Quotes

"Doing a different holiday project every day helps combat the inevitable homesickness that comes with being so far away from family."

Cheryl Ripley, page 3

Russians are coming!

Select hockey team plays in Minden on Jan. 6

by JENN WATT
Times Staff

Moscow Select, an all-star team from Russia, will be coming to the Minden arena on January 6 at 4:30 to play an all-star team from Ontario.

The game will act as a testing ground to see if Haliburton County has the community support to have its own high-level hockey team.

"They're playing here in the hopes of getting some time in front of NHL hockey scouts. That's why the Russians are coming to play in Canada," said Rick Cox, director of community services and recreation supervisor.

The Ontario team is part of the Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League, ages 16-20.

The game on January 6 is the last that the Moscow Select will have in Canada. They are playing eight games here in hopes of getting in front of scouts before they return.

"This is also kind of a test ... to see if there's support for that level of hockey in the county to perhaps work towards developing a junior team based here in the county," said Cox.

The GMHL includes teams from Bradford, Elliot Lake and South Muskoka, so it follows that Haliburton County may be a good candidate for such a team.



Jenn Watt/TIMES

Barbie for Christmas

Three of Sue Ferren's Grade 1 and 2 class stare in wonderment at Barbie Island Princess. It was one of five gifts the class bought with money from their piggy banks at Stedman's for the annual Minden Christmas toy drive. More photos page 14.

Support Pritchard House online

by JENN WATT
Times Staff

It's been months since the state of Pritchard House in downtown Minden has been in the newspaper, but that doesn't mean that some residents aren't still trying to save it from demolition.

At Tim Hortons on Tuesday, members of the Pritchard House Preservation Society met to strategize on how to bring the building – occupied up until about a month

ago by a weavers group and U-links (U-links is still in the building) – back into the public eye.

"We're sure not going to save it just because we have people [lobbying]. We need a plan," said Susan Sheehan, member of the group.

In the summer, a small committee formed to save the building that was built by the family of Lawrence Pritchard, reeve of Anson, Hindon and Minden in 1950. He was also deputy-reeve

from 1955-60 and then reeve again from 1961-64.

They created a petition and got over 1,000 signatures, put up a website and asked Minden Hills council whether there was a possibility of keeping it.

Since that time, the group has been quietly planning. They have joined the Haliburton County Community Co-operative Inc., have access to funds, have found a consultant and are creating a busi-

see HONOUR page 15

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No more returning to Beer Store

Manager Barry Smith retires after 30 years

by GREG HOEKSTRA
Times Staff

Barry Smith has only one New Year's resolution this year – to never go to work again.

After three decades of loyal service, Smith plans to retire from his post as manager of the Minden Beer Store after finishing his final shift this New Year's Eve.

When asked why he picked January 1 as the first day of his retirement, Smith casually remarks that it just seemed to be a natural fit.

"This way it'll be a fresh start," he says, smiling and sipping a coffee during a break from his shift.

Originally from Georgetown, Smith first moved to Minden back in 1977 after several years of living and working in Edmonton.

After learning some house framing skills in his travels, Smith and his wife Dianne moved to Haliburton County to build their first home together and be closer to their families back in Ontario.

"It just seemed like a nice place to live," he recalls of Minden at the time. "I can't say there was anything in specific."

Shortly after moving to the area Smith applied for a job at the Minden Beer Store and was hired on by then-manager Len Lonsberry. Since the hours weren't as steady in Minden, Smith spent a few years commuting to the Lindsay location for full-time work within the company before Lonsberry retired in 1981 and made Smith manager.

Since that day Smith says he has never once looked back. He and his wife raised their three children in



Greg Hoekstra/TIMES

Barry Smith is keeping his options open for 2008, when he won't have to factor managing the Minden Beer Store into the equation. He started at the store in 1977 and stayed because he liked the community so much.

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Minden and didn't once think of moving from their haven in the Highlands.

"It's just such a nice community," he says with a glint in

his eye. "You really couldn't do any better."

With his children now grown up, and with Dianne also retiring around the same time, Smith says there's nothing tying the two down to Minden, but also said they have no plans to move from the area anytime soon.

"I think we'll just keep our options open," he smiles.

In retirement, the couple looks forward to the simpler joys in life, such as travelling and camping in their fifth wheel, spending more time with their grandkids in Barrie and Milton, and "enjoying that second cup of coffee in the morning."

Replacing Smith as the store's new manager will be Kelly Garbutt, a local woman who has worked alongside Smith for seven years. The decision to make Garbutt manager is one that puts him at ease, knowing the store will be in good hands.

"I think it's best, because she already knows the customers," he says. "The customers are the biggest part of this job."

And while he suspects it may be strange transition not to come into work every morning, he also says it's hard to picture until it actually happens.

"My wife started counting the days a few months ago," he laughs. "But I haven't thought a whole lot about it yet. I don't think it will really sink in until the 31st."

"Right now I just feel fortunate that I found such a good job for 30 years," he adds. "Like every job there are ups and downs, but this has been a really great place to work."

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Cheryl Ripley grew up in Minden but she's working to improve lives in Honduras.

Even though so many families have so little, Cheryl says they will get in debt to buy presents at Christmas. Despite the problems, she's enjoying the vibrant culture that emerges during the holiday.

Spending Christmas far from home

by ANDREW SACHS
Special to the Times

Amanda Boughner is 12,000 kilometres from home, or 500 commutes between Minden and Haliburton. For the former Haliburton resident and HHSS graduate, it's going to be a little difficult to make it home this Christmas. That's because she is living and working halfway across the world in Taipei, Taiwan.

While most of us are getting together with family come the morning of December 25, a few brave souls will be celebrating Christmas far from friends and family in foreign and often unfamiliar cultural contexts.

"There isn't much going on here for Christmas since it isn't a widely celebrated holiday," says Boughner who's teaching English to Taiwanese youngsters. The big holiday for Taiwanese is Chinese New Year, which takes place between January 21 and February 20 depending on the lunar calendar.

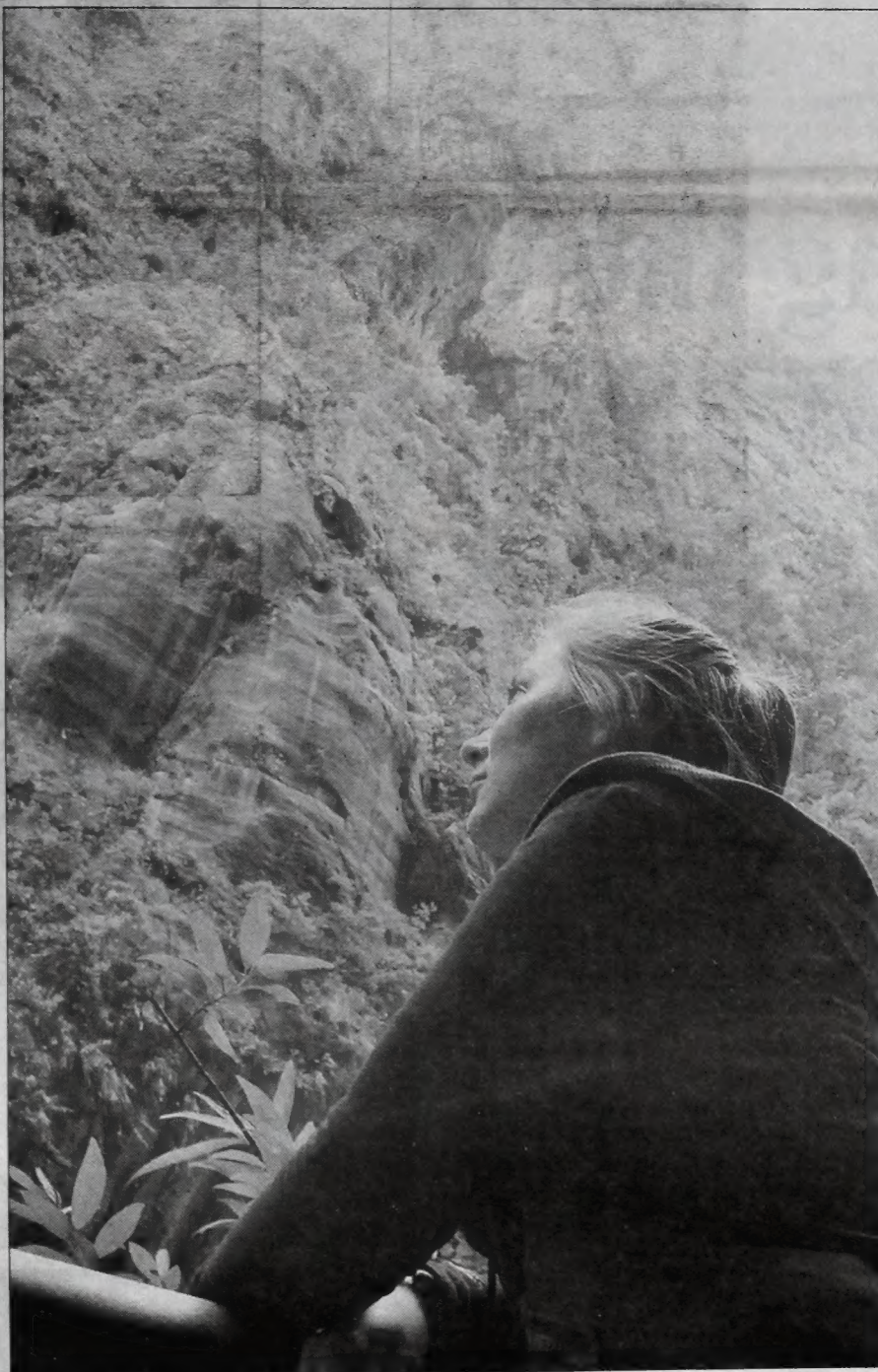
Preparations start well in advance with open-air markets selling themed trinkets and families decorating their house in red paper to ward off the legendary monster Nien, which preys on the night of the New Year.

"Those of us who do miss Christmas tend to band together," she says. This year Boughner will be celebrating the holidays with other expats over a big potluck.

"We've also completely decorated our apartment, complete with two Christmas trees and plenty of tacky decorations to keep us in the holiday mood," she says.

Across the Pacific Ocean, only a mere 3,500 kilometers away, Cheryl Ripley is far from where she grew up in Minden. On Christmas morning she will be on a bus with friends somewhere between El Salvador and Honduras in hot, dry and mid-20° Celsius weather. "I've been very lucky to make some great new friends in my time so far in Honduras but still the Christmas season is all about family time, and my family is in Canada."

Currently she's on a CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) funded internship in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The placement involves working with poor, urban



On Christmas day, Amanda Boughner is getting together with other Canadians living in Taiwan, where the Chinese New Year is a much more important celebration. This photo of Amanda, who grew up in Haliburton, was taken at the Taroko Gorge, a national park in Taiwan.

communities on issues of environmental sustainability, conflict resolution and community organization.

The predominantly Roman Catholic communities she works with celebrate Christmas but have little spending money to engage in what she says is Canada's consumption dominated holiday season. Most Hondurans eat beans and rice daily and live off of 100 Lempiras a day, or five dollars Canadian.

"Even though people here struggle on a daily basis to get by, when Christmas comes it is socially expected for the consumerism to increase," she says. The impact for many families is a new debt burden.

Despite some of the problems, Ripley sees a vibrant Honduran culture emerging at Christmas time on the street corners of Tegucigalpa, a city of one million people. "The street food and drink is all Honduran, and delicious; tamales, nacatamales, rosquillos, tajaditas, horchata, dulces (food mostly based in corn and fried), candy made from sugar cane, juices fresh from the tropical fruits, and many, many oranges, lemons, grapefruits and mandarins this time of year."

Back in Taiwan Amanda Boughner is busy putting together a school Christmas show for her kindergarten class. The kids are learning about cultural traditions in the English-speaking world as part of their English as a second language lessons.

The Christmas projects help to remind her a little bit of home. "Doing a different holiday project every day really helps keep me full of Christmas spirit, and helps combat the inevitable homesickness that comes with being so far away from family."

As she takes in the traditions the traditions of one culture living, working and navigating the glass high-rises of the coast to the lush mountains of Taiwan's interior, Boughner imparts a little of Canadian holiday spirit.

Navigating Central-American Highway which runs all the way across Central America, Ripley will be exploring and immersing herself in Latino culture during the holidays.

Both are far from home on Christmas, but loving every minute of it.



Students from all age groups at Archie Stouffer Elementary School brought in food for the annual Christmas food drive. In addition, the fun night held last week raised \$1,126 for the food bank from the toy raffle. Tickets were 25 cents, meaning a lot of

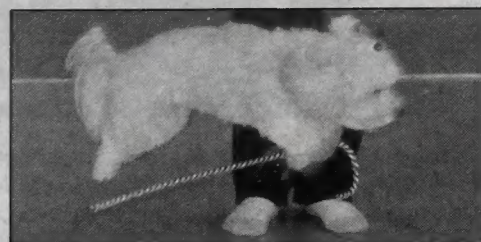
quarter rolling for teacher Raylene Clarke. Bill Obee, vice-chair of the Minden Food Bank and Ron Reid, organizer of the Christmas basket program were on hand to receive the cheque and take the food to the arena for packaging on Wednesday.

Sharing the Christmas spirit



Volunteers packed bags full of toys for the annual Minden toy drive at the arena on Thursday. There were about 40 people volunteering with the toys as well as packing the Christmas food boxes. In total, Ron Reid, one of the organizers, said they packed 145 gift bags and 155 food boxes. There were also knitted toques and mittens for all the children. Some of the volunteers left after a long day of packing are from left, Anne Nickson, Joanna Penfold, Michelle Coneybeare, Vicki Colicchia, Melissa Guyatt, Karen Guyatt and Leanne Guyatt.

Photos by Jenn Watt



Miss Hill's Grade 3 and 4 class went to Hyland Crest to bring some Christmas joy to the residents there on Thursday. They sang songs like the Little Drummer Boy and Miss Hill showed off her dog Amigo's tricks.

911 not always the answer in emergencies

by ANDREW SACHS
Special to the Echo

On December 7, 17-year-old Ashleigh Schollog drives down Highway 118 between Carnarvon and West Guilford for the first time by herself. The road is snow-covered and on a turn her 1990 Toyota slides into the snow bank. She and her younger brother are unhurt, apart from a concussion and some minor cuts and bruises, but it's her first time in an accident and she is feeling a little panicky. Fortunately she has a cellphone and knows the number to call: 911.

"They kept asking for significant landmarks but it was just all trees," Schollog says of her conversation with the 911 operator. She couldn't remember exactly where she was and then the call was dropped.

"I walked like a kilometre in either direction trying to get a signal," she says. Help eventually would come over an hour later when she was able to hitch a ride to Lakeside Golf Club and make a 911 call from a landline phone. The whole episode left her feeling frustrated with emergency services, which seemed so difficult to contact from the side of the highway.

Situations like Schollog's illustrate a point the Ontario Provincial Police are trying to get across to the public: be aware of the limitations of cellphones when calling 911.

"Cellphones will tell us what number is calling but it doesn't tell us the physical address," says Sgt. Pierre Chamberland of the OPP. He is warning the public that it's dependent on the caller to give a detailed description of their location to authorities when making a 911 call with a cellphone.

This is in contrast to traditional landline phones that give the address and name of the household owner when 911 is dialled. In case callers can't verbalize or remember their location, 911 operators automatically know it and can quickly dispatch emergency services.

It's a problem that Mike Shantz, vice-president of operations for Northern 911, is all too familiar with. "It's a struggle sometimes to find out where they are," he says of callers using a cellphone. Northern 911, a privately-owned company headquartered in Sudbury, is the voice on the other end of a 911 call for more than a million households, including all of Haliburton County. Shantz says his company is seeing half of all 911 calls coming from cellphones, a healthy increase from years past.

Cellphone calls pose a challenge but not an insurmountable one when it comes to locating the person in need of help, he says. "There are thousands of calls like that, that are handled every day," Shantz says. 911 operators overcome the technological deficiencies by working with callers and dispatch services to pinpoint a person's location.

One method of locating the calls, Shantz says, is called triangulation, whereby the operator finds three telephone towers near the source of the call and plots the approximate location of the caller.

"That's hardly helpful," says Sgt. Chamberland. He points to new GPS



Don't forget: when calling 9-1-1 from your mobile phone the dispatcher doesn't know where you are calling from.

technologies for cellphones that are being tested as possible future solutions but in the meantime he says it's up to callers to know and make emergency services aware of their location. "You have to help us help you," he says.

Chris Pittens, who sits on the Ontario 911 Advisory Board, an independent advocate group for the 911 system, says it's important that the research and trials around GPS technology continue because "more and more people are relying solely on cellphones." It's something his board is really pushing but he admits that so far there are no plans to extend the GPS cell phone technology to the public.

Currently he says the board is developing more public education materials around 911 that will be released in the next couple of months.

Ultimately what it may come down to for locating a cellphone call is for local emergency services to know their own territory down to the last rock and tree. "It's the people who actually do the dispatching, who do the response, who really need to know that piece of the area real well," says Shantz.

What helped Ashleigh was not a cellphone but a friend driving by who took her to a place where she could make a call. Maybe in the end what really helps out in an emergency situation is to be in place where people will stop and help out.

Andrew Sachs is a Carleton University journalism student. He grew up in the Haliburton Highlands.

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

The true spirit of Christmas

CHRISTMAS IN MINDEN is truly a heart-warming season. Everywhere you go, people are raising funds, bringing in a toy for the toy drive and collecting food for the Christmas food baskets.

Ron and Toos Reid and Karen Guyatt deserve congratulations for all of the work they've done to put this huge production together.

After a relatively short day of packing boxes with donated food and stuffing bags with age and gender appropriate toys, Reid was all smiles and grateful for all of the volunteers who descended on the arena on Thursday morning.

Assembling these bags and baskets is no small task, but Reid said about 40 volunteers came out to help. He said that every year there are more and more volunteers, a positive sign of community caring and involvement.

It should be alarming, though, that the number of food baskets every year increases too. It's something that we need to keep in our minds all through the year, not just at Christmas time. The overwhelming amount of cheques going to the food bank is a positive sign, but we also need to look at ways to make the essentials of life accessible to everyone.

That means not just donating food and money, but thinking about why people need those things in the first place. Is affordable housing available to families? Are people being paid the money they need to provide for their kids? Do we have the supports families need in the community – like affordable day care for the children of working parents and dental coverage for those children? Is the amount of money for those on welfare and disability pensions adequate? Without the social services in place, people need the food bank more and more as the cost of living goes up.

Standing in the Minden community centre on Thursday, it was apparent how much the community cares about those in need. The entire room was packed with donated items – a great thing. An even greater thing would be if that room wasn't needed at all.

Car idling

The other day, a woman left her car running outside the *Times* building for at least half an hour while she had a meeting at one of the nearby offices. People came and went and her car remained, running its lights and its engine, spewing unnecessary pollution into our environment.

According to Natural Resources Canada, "If every driver of a light duty vehicle avoided idling by five minutes a day, collectively, we would save 1.8 million litres per day of fuel, almost 4500 tonnes of [greenhouse gas] emissions, and \$1.7 million in fuel costs everyday (assuming fuel costs are \$0.95/L)."

If you are going to idle for more than 10 seconds in your car, it actually uses LESS gas to turn it off and then back on.

Especially in the winter, people idle to keep their cars toasty while they're out running errands, but it is a highly destructive habit to have and one that affects not only your gas costs, but the health of everyone around you.

So, just turn off your car.

Jenn Watt

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IMAGES OF THE HIGHLANDS

Ho-Ho-Ho

Photo by Greg Hoekstra

TO THE EDITOR

Times readers write

Christmas and New Year's best wishes from MPP Laurie Scott

With snow on the ground, and lights on the trees, carols playing in homes and on the radio, it's nearly impossible not to get caught up in the tradition of the holiday season.

Christmas is a special time, to rekindle relationships, visit with family and friends, and attend holiday events. The spirit of giving, the spirit of hope, are all part of making the New Year the best that it can be.

There is no doubt that rural Ontario is a special place to be at Christmas time. As the MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes

Brock, I have the wonderful opportunity to see young glowing faces as I join in Santa Claus parades, and attend the many Christmas events throughout the riding.

Despite the cold weather and slippery conditions, volunteers of all ages are doing their part in order to serve the needs of others and help spread the spirit of the holiday season. The food banks and work of the Salvation Army, along with toy drives for needy children are only some examples of the selfless generosity that is displayed by our communities to those less

see SHOW page 7

Ice fishing mode

AS MUCH AS I hate to admit it, it's time to prepare for ice fishing. I'm not talking about the preparation of equipment - heck, that part is easy. Ice fishing is - despite what tackle manufacturers are trying to imply these days - the simplest of angling sports. Essentially, a twig, hook, minnow, and line can put you in the game.

No, the preparation I'm referring to is purely mental.

Sometime within the next day or two, I need to convince myself that there's nothing I'd rather do than sit on an overturned five-gallon pail atop a frozen lake in the dead of winter. That, of course, doesn't take much convincing.

Especially since I'll take the experience to the next level by jigging a lure or watching a line as a minnow tugs feebly on it. But despite the way this has been glamorized by the media, there are times when I wonder what people like me see in it.

Admittedly, ice fishing can be awfully exciting, especially when you're fighting a good trout. Unfortunately, these moments remind me of what an old British professor once divulged to my freshman class regarding sex - that being, "The position is undignified, and the pleasure purely momentary."

Despite this, I'm slowly building my enthusiasm towards hundreds of wasted hours on the hard water. When I'm there, life slows down - much like my heart rate and metabolism.

On the ice, I get to think deep thoughts like, "Do they celebrate Kwanza in Kwanzet huts?" Or, "How many roads must a man walk down before he finds out where he left his car?"

There are other equally poignant

moments too - most of those occurring long after my brain thaws out.

The point - if there must be one - is that ice fishing kind of grows on you, often like an allergic reaction. You get the itch early on, and before long it begins to drive you crazy. After that, you spend a lot of time making rash decisions.

Of course, ice fishing can also be dangerous, especially early in the year. I've found myself floundering in cold water twice during ill-fated expeditions. Luckily, each of these instances occurred in late July. True, accidents happen, but that

didn't stop me from feeling like an idiot when the divers couldn't recover my hut.

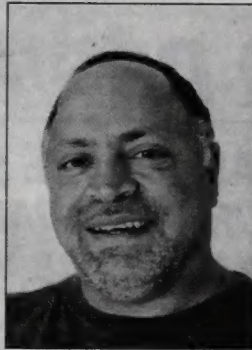
In any case, I've experienced enough good times on the ice to get enthused about it all over again. Just the other day, a

die-hard angler I know told me that the rainbows are biting real good right about now.

Since my wife and I were shopping at the time, I knew I couldn't just drop everything and leave right there and then. That's why I tried dropping some things. Apparently, that doesn't work either.

I guess what I'm saying is that I'm now fully engaged in ice fishing mode. As soon as I finish this column I'll go to the box where I keep all of my ice fishing gear and I'll sort it out. I'll change lines on reels, assess what tackle I need to buy; add a few new lures to my list, and make sure my rods are sound. Then I'll go to the shed where I keep my augers and spuds and I'll check them too. And sometime this week, I'll chase a few rainbows.

Perhaps this just substantiates the resilience of the Canadian outdoorsman. Or maybe it just proves that an angler's memory is short. Either way, it works for me.



OUTSIDE CHANCE

Steve Galea

My career in show business

IAM NO DYLAN THOMAS. Any attempt at a detailed rendering of *A Child's Christmas in Howick Township* might be enough to fill out the rest of this paragraph, but only just barely.

It must be because of some genetic defect, some synapse short-circuited by a frayed dendrite or something, that I can't remember any of the specifics of the best times I have had.

A perfect evening out may lift my spirits and leave me with a warm glow but the next day I won't be able to tell you what we ate or what you wore or where we parked the car.

So it is with my memories of my brief career in show business. I can remember that the weeks leading up to each Christmas concert were filled with almost unbearable excitement but I can't remember much of what happened.

Oh, I know that I recited and acted and sang (mercifully, not alone) but I am sure I would not even recognize any of the poems and scripts and lyrics if I heard them recited now.

What I do remember is that school essentially stopped in early December for rehearsals, and no wonder. A poor performance by the cast of 18 at S.S. No. # 8, Howick Township would be a blot on our teacher's career.

Tom O'Kafka was a man's man, as it used to be said. He played hockey and softball for the village team and taught us what were then perceived to be the masculine values of honour and loyalty and self-reliance.

On warm days in late spring, he wore a short-sleeved white shirt and bow tie and played ball with us at recess and, if the game was going well, our afternoon break might last until it was time to go home.

He taught eight grades of farmers' sons and daughters in those last days before agriculture stopped being a way of life and

became an industry. Mixed farms of a hundred acres lined our country roads and folks still made a decent living from them.

Boys grew up to fill their father's shoes and girls were meant to marry them and it seemed as though things were as they always had been and always would be. It's a lost world now, as foreign as Baluchistan, and the little school was at the heart of it all.

Even a man's man couldn't avoid being judged by his Christmas concert, and, to tell the truth, Tom O'Kafka seemed to enjoy being in show business.

One day we would come to school to find a stage where his desk used to be and we would put away our books and start rehearsals. Some of us may have kept at our lessons while the rest rehearsed, but that is a detail I don't remember.



BACK OF BEYOND

Neil Campbell

What I do remember is that white sheets draped from ropes served as curtains and created wings where we waited offstage for our cues, in case we happened to remember them.

Somebody must have played the piano (our teacher couldn't). There must have been some moment of theatrical triumph meant to last for me forever. A farmer dressed in a red suit and white beard must have handed out presents. But I can picture none of that.

What I do remember is grownups scrunching themselves into our desks to watch us, their faces shiny with sweat as they looked up at us, all but roasted by the fat maple chunks in the stove at the back of the room.

I remember the smell of wet winter clothes and rubber boats and how good it felt after to step out into the cold and stand with the adults, listening to them talk, looking up at a clear sky brilliant with stars and wishing the night would never end.

In memory, it never has.

neilcampbell@xplornet.com

Show your support for the community this season

from page 6

fortunate.

In 2008, I know that we'll continue to use that rural camaraderie to meet the challenges that lie before us, and celebrate our successes.

I encourage you, wherever possible, to visit the shops and restaurants of our local

businesses as you shop or meet with family and friends. Our entrepreneurs provide jobs, economic benefits and some of the best goods and services you'll find anywhere in the province of Ontario.

It is inspiring to represent a riding filled with hardworking people and families who are dedicated to making our commu-

nities a better place to live and play.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the privilege of serving as your Member of Provincial Parliament and look forward to seeing and meeting with many of you throughout the year.

You are most welcome to attend my annual New Year's Levee, on Sunday,

January 6 at the Lindsay Inn on 354 Lindsay Street South from 2 - 4 p.m.. Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item for donation to the local food banks. Hope to see you there.

From my family to yours have a Merry Christmas, a safe and happy holiday, and a healthy and fulfilling 2008.



Jenn Watt/TIMES

These girls can skate

The Lindsay Skate Competition was a successful first of the season for four Minden skaters on December 8 and 9. From left, Ashley Cooper placed seventh in pre-preliminary ladies' A; Jessica Carroll finished fourth in pre-introductory ladies' interpretive and placed seventh in preliminary ladies' A flight one; Alana Bannister got seventh in preliminary ladies' A flight three; and Shae MacNaull got third in pre-preliminary ladies' B.

Reach For The Future



For the **tenth** year the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation decorates trees located in the front lobbies of the Health Care Facilities with tags sponsored by gifts from our generous supporters.

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As of December 20, 2007 we have raised **\$57,805** towards our goal.

Thank you to the following generous businesses, groups and individuals;

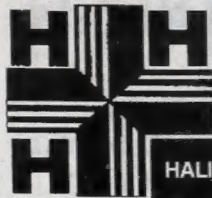
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Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation sincerely thank our Honourary Chairman for our **2007 "Reach for The Future"** campaign, Dr. Bob Heyes and Dr. Dave Fiddler.

If you would like to help us **"Reach for The Future"** this Holiday Season, your gift can be sent to **Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, Box 1413, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 or Box 30, Minden, ON K0M 2K0**, you can deposit your gift in the donation boxes at the Minden and Haliburton Facilities, or you can donate online at www.hhhs.on.ca/foundation.htm.



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Red Hawks shutout should have been easier

by MATT JAMES
Times staff

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School boys' hockey team was victorious at home on December 17 after beating Port Hope High School 3-0. While goaltender Ian Sachs earned a shutout it was overshadowed by the fact that Port Hope had only seven players — one being the goalie who kept the game close.

And while Port Hope normally has a full team, on this evening players were missing due to scheduling conflicts, prior engagements, injuries and sickness.

So why did the team still travel with only six forwards able to play?

"It's part of our commitment to the league," says Port Hope coach Mike Dable. "And the boys still wanted to play."

Yake complimentary the under-staffed team. "They played a very smart game considering the number of players they had. They sat back, played a trap, and hoped for good goaltending, which they got."

From the puck drop Haliburton owned the game by controlling the play and the puck but Port Hope's goaltender was solid and much busier than the Red Hawks' Ian Sachs, who was, however, very sharp when he needed to be. His posts also saved a couple of goals.

Midway through the first period Port Hope rang a shot off the post on their first good scoring chance. But the first goal of the game was an ugly one, for both teams, and it came off a deflection scored by Lane Schimid with assists coming from Drew Paul and Derek Carpenter.

Coach Gary Brohman felt the physical play was lacking but he let his team know about it, asking to see some hits. And one particular beauty came in the offensive zone when Josh Townsend legally flattened a Port Hope player. But a little too much physical play on the part of Tyler Watson earned him two minutes in the penalty box. The score was 1-0 after the one period.

The penalties would continue in the scoreless second period as Scott Griffith was sent off for tripping and Watson took his second minor of the game. But the penalties didn't seem to hurt Haliburton. The team hardly looked shorthanded mostly due to a spent Port Hope team which had only one player resting on the bench.

The third period become even more physical and Port Hope started to be on the penalty-taking end of the whistles. But Port Hope's netminder kept coming up big for his team. On one-shorthanded occasion the Red Hawks set up what looked like a sure goal but he slid across his crease making a flashy glove save.

The Red Hawks found the twine again on a goal from Watson who put it past the keeper after receiving a perfect pass from Matt Eno right on the tape of his stick in the front of the net. Matt Clements would add an empty net goal from a pass by Sachs who also picked up the shutout.

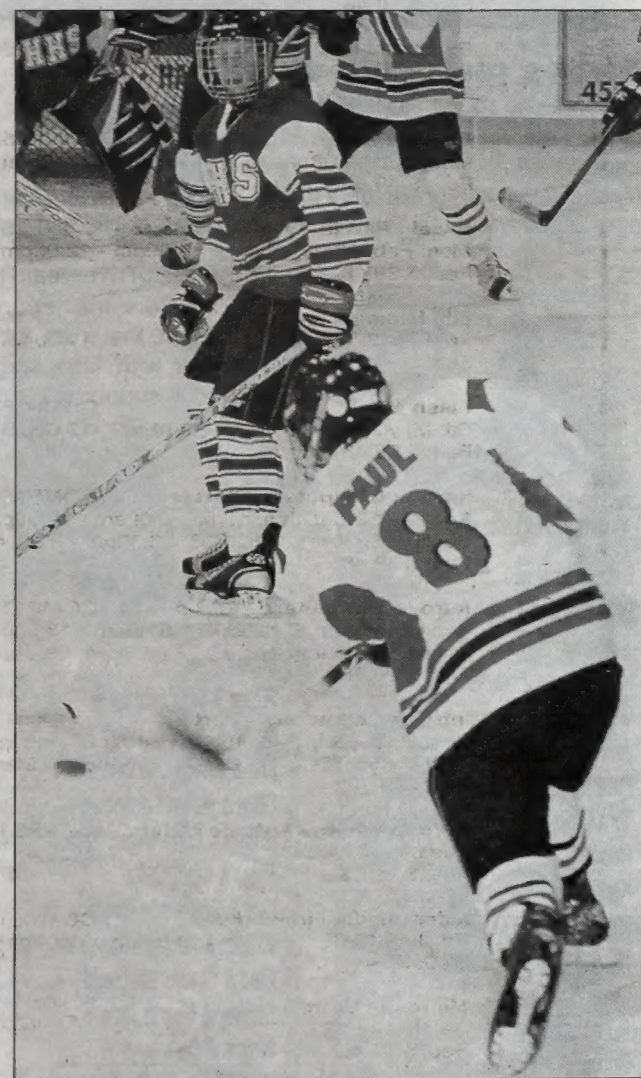
"It's been a great start to the year," said Yake of the Red Hawks season so far.



Andi Donaldson (22) is stopped by the diving Port Hope goalie who kept Port Hope in the game.



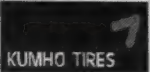
Goalie Ian Sachs earned a shutout. The team is 4-1-1.

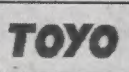


D-man Drew Paul tosses one on net from the blue line.



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First Aid - Standard HLTH81
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First Aid - Standard Recertification HLTH82
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Wilderness Advanced First Aid HLTH76
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WHMIS HLTH52
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Language

Spanish - Level II LANG44
Wed, Jan. 9/08 - Mar. 12/08 6:30pm - 9:00pm
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Dance

Ballroom Dancing I ARTS817
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Dry Stone Wall Construction ARTS988
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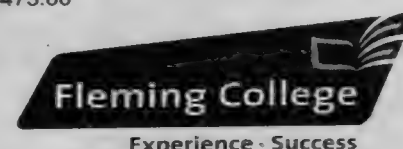
Timber Framing ARTS298
Mon - Sat, April 7/08 - 12/08 9:00am - 4:30pm
Fee: \$ 287.28

Glassblowing ARTS101
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Sec.52 - Sat Mar 8-Apr 12/08 9:00am-4:30pm
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Red Hawks fail to soar over the Spartans

Coach Longo believes there is still hope for his basketball team

by MATT JAMES
Times staff

It seems that every time the Red Hawks senior boys basketball team faces an opponent there's at least one giant player on the opposing team who is very tough to defend against.

On December 18 the Red Hawks tried to soar above a 6'7" Spartan from LCVI.

So what do you do to defend against a young man who's 6'7" and backed by a strong offensive team? Well, you commit fouls, and if you're the Red Hawks you take 16 fouls in the first half of the game.

Like the juniors, the seniors got off to a slow start. It was 0-10 before they earned their first points from Zeke Diezel, and by the end of the first half the score was 10-31.

In the locker room at half time



Shane Dibblee drives and dribbles down the lane.



Zeke Diezel is double-teamed en route to the rim.

coach Paul Longo said that the team talked about how the second unit came off the bench and added a sense of calm to their game. The second unit wasn't

turning the ball over as much; they were more patient on the offensive end and they also ran the fast breaks well. "The goal in the second half

was to keep Lindsay to less than 20 points and for us to score 20 points," said Longo. "We made half of our goal which is not bad."

The Red Hawks came out more organized in the third quarter and displayed some fantastic passing, moving the ball quickly up the court. On one occasion the boys went end-to-end scoring a basket with five passes. It was beautiful to watch and if they could do it more consistently they'd be tough to stop.

Despite the Red Hawks' efforts, the Spartans hand-eye coordination was just too strong as they continued to hit field goal after field goal. They had executed a good percentage of their foul shots in the first half. At the end of the third quarter the Spartans had doubled up the Red Hawks 21-41.

J.L. Frybort had at least nine points for the Red Hawks but the boys outplayed themselves offensively by not driving to the basket often enough. On the other end that's all the Spartans were doing — head fake and then a hard, fast drive to the net where they'd either be fouled or put down a lay up.

The boys fall to 0-2 on the season. As coach Longo says, "There is hope."

The boys play their next home game on January 9.

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by **MATT JAMES**
Times staff

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Gifts from the heart

Sue Ferren's Grade 1 and 2 class went shopping on Thursday for toys, but not for themselves, for a young people their ages. The kids brought in money from their own collections to buy the toys for the annual Christmas toy drive totaling over \$70. Stedman's was bustling with young people picking out gifts they thought someone their age would like. There were five gifts in total – some for a boy and some for a girl.

Photos by Jenn Watt

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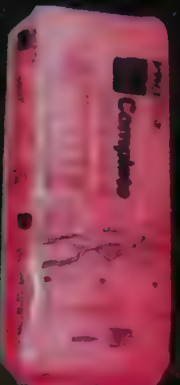
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Lawrence Pritchard was the reeve of Anson, Hindon and Minden and warden of Haliburton County in 1963.

Honour Lawrence Pritchard's memory by preserving house: group

from page 1

ness plan to bring to council in March.

The state of the house, which is owned by the municipality, is unknown because of mandatory accessibility renovations that must happen. Until the preservation society came along, it looked like it would be torn down rather than have the expensive upgrades done. It also needs to be repaired — new windows and repairs to the brick façade.

But the group at Tim Hortons had a different plan. They want to make renovations feasible and to make the historical importance of the house known.

The group, comprised of Susan Sheehan, Marian Gillanders, Pat Dearborn, Rob Luke, Sharon Luke and Marjorie Ludlow-Green, has been doing its research and found many interesting tidbits about the former reeve.

For example, Lawrence Pritchard was not only the reeve, but also served as warden in 1963 and has a connection to the weavers of the county. In an old copy of the Minden Progress, dated 1963, it states

that Pritchard was presented with the official tartan of Haliburton County that was commissioned by the local Chamber of Commerce.

Sharon Luke said that this new history will help cement the importance of the house to Minden.

"There are a lot of figures that play a historical or current role in the development of our town and the development of the county but Lawrence Pritchard was significant in that he was not only reeve and county warden, but other things like being on the board of Minden Village school board and town constable," said Luke.

On February 27, 1963 the *Minden Progress* felt he was significant enough member of the community that they wrote an article about him and his contributions. Pritchard was also the president of the agricultural society, the Rotary Club and deputy of the district Masonic order.

The Pritchard House Preservation Society now has an online petition and have begun collecting information on the house for public consumption on their site: www.pritchardhouse.ca.

No. 19

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd, 1963

WARDEN AND REEVES AT PRESENTATION



Haliburton Chamber of Commerce director Mrs. Laura Kirkwood and Glen Hodgson, MPP (left), display Haliburton ties while Warden Lawrence Pritchard (right), shows tartan presented to him for a shirt.



SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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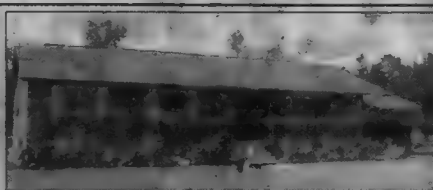
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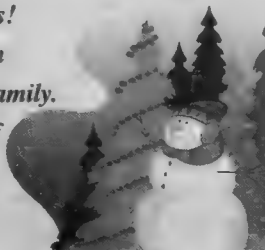


Move into this new home this spring and help decide the finishing touches! Boat along the Gull River onto Gull Lake or into town for shopping and dinner!

Merry Christmas!

**Enjoy the season
with friends & family.**

**May the spirit of
the season stay
with you
through 2008!**



**Denise
Leblanc**



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Season's Greetings

We would like to extend our best wishes to all, good health and great Happiness in the New Year.

Thank you for your trust and for the pleasure and privilege of serving you this past year.

May the coming year bring a world of Peace & Joy for you and those you love.

**The best of the Season to you and your family.
Denise Leblanc & Family**

Snowplows like this one can't always see kids when they play in the roadside snowbanks.



The perils of snowbank play

Every winter snowplow operators deal with all kinds of nasty weather. Snow, freezing rain, ice pellets, you name it, they come across it. But one of the scariest and most dangerous things an operator sees in the winter is children playing on top of snow banks or too close to the road way.

"We want to ensure parents and children are aware of how they can be safe this winter," says Dan Lynch, the City of Kawartha Lakes' operations manager.

Driving a snowplow is a difficult and stressful job. Maneuvering a 40-foot truck with a 15 foot plow and wing through streets, while dealing with foggy windows, slippery roads and everyday traffic is challenging enough without having to watch for children.

Lynch offers the following tips:

Teach your children to stay behind the sidewalks when they see a snowplow coming. The heavy wet snow coming off the plow can be thrown some distance and could knock someone down who is standing nearby.

Never dig tunnels in a bank of snow near a road, or any place where a snowplow might come by and fill it.

Establish a buddy system with friends and have them look out for one another.

Dr. Lorne Kay *Improve your view...*
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community calendar
What's happening in the Highlands
Event listings are provided FREE for non-profit groups on a space-available basis.
Requests should be faxed to The Echo at 457-3275, emailed to: editor@haliburtonecho.ca or brought into the office.
Please submit events by the Thursday prior to the requested publication date.
NOTE: This calendar is not a comprehensive listing of all events taking place in the area.

Local last-minute gift ideas in Dorset

DORSET NEWS

Melissa Alfano

705-766-0076

melalfano@hotmail.com

Are you scrambling for that last-minute Christmas gift? Don't forget the Dorset Heritage Museum has wonderful 2008 calendars that make great Christmas gifts. Also available is a fabulous cookbook called *Heritage Cooking: a collection of recipes from a lifetime of cooking*. The collection put together by Jennie McLennan includes recipes and stories from the kitchens of the first homes in the Muskoka and Haliburton region. Calendars can be found at the local post office and Dorset TimBr Mart, and both calendars and cookbooks can be found at Robinson's General Store, or contact the Dorset Heritage Museum at 766-0323.

Services at Knox United have been held at 9 a.m. this fall but they will change to 9:30 a.m. for January, February and March when the Dwight church closes for the winter months.

The Dorset Recreation Centre (and all Algonquin Highlands Municipal Offices) will be closed from Monday, December 24 to Tuesday, January 1 and will be reopening on Wednesday, January 2.

Ski for Life will be offering cross country ski lesson outings at Bondi Village Resort on Thursday and Friday, January 3 and 4. No experience in necessary and equipment is provided. For more information on time, cost and how to register, contact Dan Mahoney, CANSI Level 1 Instructor, at skiforlife@exculink.com or 519-842-4652.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Annual Dinner and Music Night scheduled for Saturday, January 12 at the Dorset Recreation Centre has been cancelled.

All are invited to a special meeting taking place on Monday, January 14 at the Frost Centre dining hall at 7 p.m. to talk about the impending library closure in Algonquin Highlands township. If you would like to car-pool, meet in the Robinson's General Store parking lot at 6:30 p.m.

There will be a public meeting seeking input on the Dorset Ball Diamond Rehabilitation Project on Wednesday, January 16 at 7 p.m. at the Dorset Recreation Centre. A committee has been meeting to discuss how to make better use of the ball diamond area while maintaining the ball diamond itself. They've come up with some really great ideas and would like input from the public before moving forward. Children are encouraged to participate as a playground structure is part of the plan and



Jean Watt/TIMES

Joanna Penfold, left, vice-president of the Minden Rotary Club, presents a cheque for part of the \$2,250 to Ron Reid, middle, and Bill Obee, right, of the Minden Food Bank. The money is partially from the Rotary district 7010 and goes directly to the Christmas food drive.

the committee wants feedback from the kids who will be using it. All are welcome. For more information, contact the Recreation Centre at 766-9968.

Birthday wishes for the week of December 23 to 29 go out to Karen Knutt, Rebecca Arbuckle, Len Whitworth and Happy birthday from last week to Jim Jones. Celebrate and have fun on your special day!

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For the past few weeks, the *Times* and *Weekender* have been running a mystery store contest. Last week Amy Brohm and Ann Lavery of the county's tourism office pulled out the winning ballot, which had been submitted by Robin Flood. Robin wins gift certificates from each of the participating stores, perfect for those last-minute gifts.



The Township of
Minden Hills
In Season. Every Season

**NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS AND
BUSINESS OWNERS OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS**

Council of the Township of Minden Hills, at its Council meeting of October 25, 2007, has requested deferment of the **mandatory** "clear plastic bags" for garbage disposal until after the Council meeting in November 2007. Council will approve the "clear plastic bag" use commencing January 1st, 2008, to coincide with neighbouring municipalities who are targeting the same date for implementation. The use of "clear plastic bags" will become **mandatory** at that time, and the Township of Minden Hills would like to thank their residents and business owners for their continued support in extending the life of all our existing landfill sites within our Township. Please note: clear plastic bags are available at most local outlets.

Lakes may not be as safe as they look for snowmobilers

With the anticipated arrival of warmer temperatures over the next few days and potential increased snowmobile use over the holiday season, the Ontario Provincial Police are reminding snowmobilers to plan their routes carefully.

The snow that has fallen from recent winter storms acts as a warm blanket on the thin ice, making rivers and lakes appear safe when they are not.

"Ice conditions can change rapidly each day due to milder temperatures, so we urge those who operate snowmobiles to be aware of the trail conditions. When unsure, avoid traveling over any bodies of water" says Chief Superintendent Bill Grodzinski, commander of the highway safety division and the province's snowmobile programs.

Already this winter, in eastern Ontario, the OPP has investigated a snowmobile death attributed to thin ice conditions when three victims drove across a lake and fell through the ice. Tragically one passenger was not able to

pull himself from the frigid water.

A safe return from a snowmobile trip starts with proper planning before you leave. Let others know where you are going and when you will return. Pick up trail maps and information about the trails in the area where you are going to ride. Information on local trail conditions is available from the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association at www.hcsa.on.ca.

The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (www.ofsc.on.ca) has issued a "Yellow Alert" in relation to current snowmobiling conditions in the province. This alert signals the need to use patience and be very cautious on swamps and waterways, "because the weight and insulating effect of the heavy snow may cause slush, and ice that was not safe before the storm may be weakened by the extra snow".

The OPP remind all snowmobilers to operate their machines safely, don't drink and sled and have a safe holiday season.



Jenn Watt/TIMES

Fill a cruiser

Members of the OPP took four hours out of their day on Thursday to fill a cruiser with food for the food bank. They were at Valumart in Minden from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and then at IGA from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Who could resist donating food to, from left, Mark McMaster, Dick Schell and Ian Wilson?

GARBAGE — the solution is clear

Clear plastic garbage bags have proven to be an effective way of reducing the amount of recyclable material and household hazardous waste that gets thrown away with garbage.

Effective January 1, 2008 clear plastic garbage bags will be mandatory for the disposal of household garbage at all landfill sites within the Township of Algonquin Highlands.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Township of Algonquin Highlands

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**The next
issue of
the
Minden
Times
comes
out
Jan. 2**

Dog is not woman's best friend this week



STANHOPE LIFE

Gina Atkinson
489-1397 pine_reflections@yahoo.ca

A little late but always good, Mary Stiver had a birthday this past week. She was known with affection as the Raccoon Lady a few years back for all her generosity toward the little critters that were in need of a good home, a long-time resident of Hall's Lake and friends to many. Happy birthday and hope your fish-hut days will start soon.

Also on the birthday list is Alyssa Stiver, all of eight years old. She is granddaughter to both Mary Stiver and yours truly. We have both been a big part of Alyssa's life since day one. I can truthfully say that being a grandparent has been lots more fun than being an actual parent. It is not because you can give them back at the end of the day, it is much more than that. We have more patience and truly enjoy the small things more than we did back "then."

Alyssa has brought back the "play" in my life. It has also been fun teaching her some basic things. Nigel and I appreciate and thank her parents Natalie and Dan for sharing their daughter. Happy birthday to a real sweetheart!

Happy birthday to all December babies, including Sarah Farr and Brittaney Thomas, and sympathies go out to all the rest of us who juggle birthday gifts and Christmas gifts so close together.

In this last column before Christmas, when everything will start to get back to normal and you have time on your hands again, here is something to give some thought to.

The Stanhope Recreation Committee is looking for new members. They meet six to eight times per year and plan programs and events for the Stanhope community.

Also on their seek list are people to help create and maintain a community outdoor skating rink behind the community hall on North Shore Road.

For either one of these worthwhile causes, please call 705-766-9968 or e-mail drc@algonquinhighlands.ca. Be part of making wonderful things happen in our community.

Please circle your calendars for Thursday, January 17. Plan to attend family movie night at the Stanhope Community Hall on North Shore Road. It will start at 5:30 p.m. with hot dogs, free popcorn and treats available for purchase. Admission is by donation and they request a canned or dry good for the food drive. The scheduled movie is *Ratatouille* which is suitable for the whole family. That sounds like fun. *Ratatouille* is on my list of must see movies!

My annual newsletter from Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary is full of stories of rescued animals, some with happy endings, and some with upsetting truths that we humans are directly responsible for.

Tony Grant is a very close friend of ours from back in the Bolton days. He has been instrumental in making the sanctuary what it is today. He started with volunteering his time and fundraising for them and has developed this project into many great natural setting enclosures for the animals he so deeply cares about. Through the year we collect things they can use: blankets, containers etc. and then we make our little trek up to visit.

Wednesdays are open to the public and it doesn't matter how busy they are, Tony will stop and take us around the grounds. Every animal has a name and a story. It doesn't matter how often he does this but you can see that everyone has a calling and this one was Tony's.

Tony has been on television and has been a big public figure for the sanctuary. This year he was even invited to Russia to represent the black bears of Canada. He was there with other important people from all over the world to share their experience, ideas and some ways to work together for the welfare of bears.

Right now at the sanctuary they have roughly 91 orphaned bears. There are also wolves, coyotes, the white raccoon, Subira, the lioness and many more creatures great and small, each with sad stories on how they came to this place. The fortunate ones will be released but some will stay there with their adopted family to live out their days for various reasons.

Try and go to the Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, bring a donation or just bring stuff for them to use. It is a good way to teach children about respect for God's creatures. If you can't get there mail whatever you can afford to Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, care of Tony Grant Box 242, Rosseau, Ontario, P0C 1J0. Check out their website: www.aspenvalleywildlifesanctuary.com. Their e-mail is aspen@vianet.on.ca. Phone number is 705-732-6368.

They have an Adopt-an-Animal program going on that you might want to ask them about. This would've made a great Christmas present but it still works for any birthdays, anniversaries, the choices are endless.

This sanctuary exists to rehabilitate orphaned or injured wildlife and they rely on warm, caring people to help them.

If you are an animal lover like me you will give this plenty of thought. However, as I write this, my beautiful, well-behaved (?) Bella is in the bad books after demolishing my prescription glasses because I dared go out without her. She has already forgotten, but I'm still stewing.

When I was relating my story to one of my customers, she told me hers. Yes, it is worse. She had put all her Christmas packages under the tree and went out for a short while. You guessed it, all packages opened and destroyed. There is absolutely no way we will ever figure out what goes on in dogs' heads. Certainly not a woman's or man's best friend this week.

Hope the Christmas holidays will bring much happiness to you and yours. Thank you for reading my column and looking forward to sharing 2008 with you.

The real gift is the time you'll spend together.



Tim Hortons invites you to enjoy some time with your family and friends and skate for free at your local arena. It's our way of saying thank you and happy holidays. Visit your local Tim Hortons in Minden for a schedule of ice times and locations.



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community calendar

What's happening in the Highlands

CURRENT EVENTS



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- Dec. 22: The Children's Learning Centre will be closed from Dec. 22 to Jan. 1, 2008. We will reopen Jan. 2 to Jan. 4 for regular hours. The School-age program will be at the Day Care not the school for this week. Monday Jan. 7 we will be back to our regular schedules.
- Jan. 6: The Haliburton Highland Grannies invite everyone to a "Joyous Musical Afternoon" at Stouffer Mill B & B, on Sunday Jan. 6, from 4 to 7 p.m. Enjoy lovely music by local performers, beautiful decorations and yummy treats. Admission by donation to the Grandmothers Campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Stouffer Mill B & B is located 9 km north of Carnarvon off Hwy 35. For more info, call 286-2198.
- Jan. 9: The Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild is meeting at the Minden Lion's Club. Doors open at 11 a.m. For our program we will have a sharing of ideas from various members who have attended workshops outside of our Guild. The meeting starts at 1 p.m. & guests & new members are always welcome. Call Anita Dobell, 457-3723.
- Jan. 14: Beginner Taoist Tai Chi® starts Monday Jan. 14, at 7:00 p.m. at Hyland Crest, Minden, with a demonstration. Call Amy at (705) 286-3615 to register. Note: The Taoist Tai Chi Society is a registered charity and all instructors are accredited and are volunteers.
- Jan. 16: Beginner Taoist Tai Chi® starts Wednesday Jan. 16, at 6:00 p.m. at the United Church, Pine Street, Haliburton with a demonstration. Call Brenda at (705) 447-2148 to register. Note: The Taoist Tai Chi Society is a registered charity and all instructors are accredited and are volunteers.
- Jan. 16: Beginner Taoist Tai Chi® starts Wednesday Jan. 16 at 1:00 p.m. at the Lloyd Watson Centre in Wilberforce, with a demonstration. Call Michele at (705) 448-2392 to register. Note: The Taoist Tai Chi Society is a registered charity and all instructors are accredited and are volunteers.
- Jan. 18: Beginner Taoist Tai Chi® starts Friday Jan. 18 at 9:30 a.m. at Hyland Crest, Minden with a demonstration. Call Amy at (705) 286-3615 to register. Note: The Taoist Tai Chi Society is a registered charity and all instructors are accredited and are volunteers.
- Jan. 21: Beginner Taoist Tai Chi® starts Monday Jan. 21 at 9:30 a.m. at the United Church, Pine Street, Haliburton with a demonstration. Call Brenda at (705) 447-2148 Note: the Taoist Tai Chi Society is a registered Charity and all instructors are accredited and are volunteers.
- Feb. 13: The Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild is meeting at the Minden Lion's Club. Doors open at 11 a.m. We will be working on a Sudoku quilt with the meeting starting at 1 p.m. New members welcome. Call Anita Dobell, 457-3723.
- Mar. 12: The Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild is meeting at the Minden Lion's Club. Doors open at 11 a.m. Our program will be tips & techniques round robin. The general meeting starts at 1 p.m. New members welcome. Call Anita Dobell, 457-3723.
- Apr. 9: The Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild is meeting at the Minden Lion's Club. Doors open at 11 a.m. The meeting starts at 1 p.m. and our visiting speaker will be Renske Helmuth who will do a trunk show. Renske will also do a workshop on the following day. Call Anita Dobell, 457-3723.
- May 14: The Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild is meeting at the Minden Lion's Club. Doors open at 11 a.m. This month is our Annual General Meeting, & new members are always welcome. Call Anita Dobell, 457-3723.

ONGOING EVENTS

- A pictorial essay of Haliburton County . A new picture every day at HYPERLINK "http://jackbush.my-expressions.com/http://jackbush.my-expressions.com"
- Adult Badminton - Mondays, 8-10 p.m. Runs until May 26/08 at Archie Stouffer Elementary School, Minden. Join us for fun, fellowship & fitness. Call 286-1765.
- Al-Anon Meetings - Are you affected by someone else's drinking- If so, Al-anon may be for you. Haliburton Highlands Meeting, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., St. George's Anglican Church (side door entrance), Haliburton; Minden Al-anon Meeting, Mondays, 8 p.m. at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home meeting room (north entrance), Minden.
- Alzheimer's Disease - "Caring with Confidence" a group for caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's Disease or related dementia meets on the 4th Thurs. of the month at Community Care at 10-12. Call Dorothy or Linda at 457-1742.
- Aqua Size for Seniors or Adults with disabilities - If you are interested, call Community Care 457-2941.
- Celebrate Recovery Meeting - Looking for a safe place to discuss real life issues without fear of being judged or condemned- Celebrate Recovery is for everyone with hurts, habits & hang-ups. Lakeside Baptist Church starting at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) Call 457-2851.

Events listings are provided **FREE** for non-profit groups on a space-available basis. While we endeavour to accommodate requests for publication, we cannot guarantee that all requests for listings will appear. Requests should be faxed to The Echo at 457-3275, emailed to editor@haliburtonecho.ca, or brought in to the office. Please submit events by the Thursday prior to the requested publication date. NOTE: This calendar is not a comprehensive listing of all events taking place in the area. Please check the classified pages, display advertising and articles appearing elsewhere in the Echo for more information on events in the Highlands.

Snowbirds home early

Not related to the thriving Canadian dollar but our snowbirds have returned early this year perching on the dooryard's high snowbanks and whirling together in flight if startled. In actual fact they are properly called snow buntings and, according to *The Audubon Society's Field Guide to North American Birds*, this circumpolar bird is also often called snowflake breeds farther north than almost any other land bird. When winter is severe they often fly to the northern states and can be found at beach parking lots in the dead of winter looking for weed seeds. I will need to sprinkle on our parking lot as they show no interest in the feeders.

Why not ring in 2008 dancing the night away on Monday, December 31 at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 441 Kinmount with D.J. Tommy Williamson. The party starts at 9 p.m. with door prizes, spot dances, party favours and a complimentary light

l u n c h
Tickets are now available in the Legion clubroom at a cost of \$15/person or \$25/couple.

For more information please call 488-3462 after 4 p.m. weekdays and 2 p.m. weekends.

Kinmount Public Library has made some program time changes beginning in January. Please note that the preschool storytime and crafts session will be held every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. while 'twens and teens will meet on the third Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. For more information on our library call 488-3199.

Here are the results from the Big Bucks Bid Euchre held regularly on the third Wednesday of each month at the Kinmount Legion starting at 11 a.m. First was Willard Rogers with Ida Young second and Ken Young third. Holding the hidden score was Norm Lane.

Now for the scoring news with your usual reminder to keep busy and well. They go together.

Where known the next date for each event is listed in keeping with the holiday changes. All groups send along their good wishes for the season and the coming new year.

December 18 Stanhope Firehall Seniors Mixed Shuffleboard: Top team members were Connie Sawyer and Alf Briscoe with 374 points then our reporter Pearl Cowen and Joan Meadows at 317. Tied for third spot at 305 were George Hamilton and Colleen Davison and June Fortune partnered with Ken Boldt. Ellen Holden and Flo Roussel took the afternoon's low score of 176. Please note that the next Shuffleboard will be on January 8, 2008.

December 18 euchre at Gelert: Lone hand honours went to Gala Stamp while Theresa Deak and Ralph Young recorded the high scores. Lorna Hicks and Hazel Benetin took the evening's lows with Eleanor Young winning the draw. Harold Harvie reminds that the next euchre at Gelert will be on January 15th continuing to alternate with Lochlin which will have euchre on the 8th.

December 18 bid euchre at Minden

Legion: Moonshots went to Sharon Bennett, Bev Johnson and Ida Young [2] with Ida also taking the high score representing the gents. Tom Grix was second high and Eileen Shepstone third with Verna McDonald leading the ladies then Ellie

Langpohl and Elva Paisley in second and third spot. Other prizes went to Phyllis Windsor, Jesse Barlow, Marcy Morgan and our reporter Elva Paisley who reminds that the next bid euchre comes up on January 8th.

December 18 contract bridge at Stanhope: There were three Slams over the afternoon by Muriel McIntosh and our bridge reporter Ross Fletcher, then Margo Davidson and Reet Murray and finally by Dorothy Strype partnered with Paul Pethick. First for the high scoring quartet was Margo Davidson with an impressive 8630 followed by Jack Cox 4950, Muriel

AROUND THE TOWN

Patti Fleury

488-2938 Fax: 488-1246

email: brucefleury@ptbo.igs.net

McIntosh 4730 and Harold Cox 4260. Diana Spicer won the lucky draw and Linda Cherry the Shiny

Penny while Margo took home the M.O.B. Award [nothing to do with television's Sopranos] for clearly being Mistress of Bridge. The next contract bridge at Stanhope will be held on January 8.

December 19 duplicate bridge at Parklane, Haliburton: Tied for first place in North/South at 54% were Harold Cox and Bruce Armstrong and Reet Murray partnered with Ross Fletcher. Over in East/West the honours went to Margo and Tom Davidson at 63% with Jacqueline and Kelly Metcalf second at 54%. Parklane will play next on January 2, 2008. For those who play at Echo Hills on Fridays the next event will be held on January 4.

December 19 bid euchre at Stanhope: Six moonshots landed on Don Burch, Leroy Mowat, Trudy Kroes, Sandy Poulton, Tom Orr and Jean Dutka. Leading the pinks was Marj Coffey at 300 then Pat Norman 284 and Mary Strange 278 while Bill Milford came first for the whites at 288 with Don Burch and Len Kroes tied for second at 245 and Mary Hamilton 236 third. A special thank you goes to Linda for the wonderful meal enjoyed by all.

December 20 euchre at Minden Legion: Lone hand holders were Margaret Fletcher and Bob Cleverly with Pearl Cowen and Kevin Maloney recording the evening's highs. Filling the second high slots were Eileen Shapiera and Don Hicks while Tom Grix, Leroy Mowat, Gwen Cox, Sharron Atkinson and Eileen Shapiera took home the other prizes.

In closing here is a lovely verse by Carol Bessent Hayman from the title page of the 2007 issue of *Ideals Christmas*. From the old farmhouse on the Galway Road, our family's best wishes to you and yours.

Christmas comes softly to the waiting heart,

In candle's glow and star and ringing bell.

Across the snow, glad welcome lights the way

To hearth and home where joy and laughter dwell.

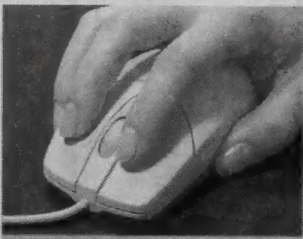
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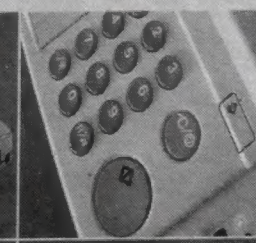
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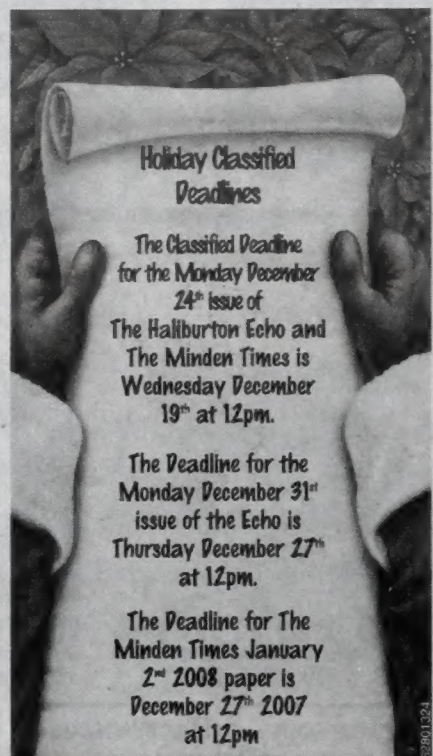
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The Deadline for the Monday December 31st issue of the Echo is Thursday December 27th at 12pm.

The Deadline for The Minden Times January 2nd 2008 paper is December 27th 2007 at 12pm

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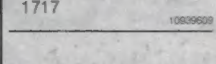
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Announcements

Deaths

ROBINSON, Carole - Passed away suddenly at the South Lake Regional Health Centre, Newmarket on Tuesday, December 18, 2007 at the age of 65.

Beloved wife for 44 years to Ted Robinson of Minden. Loving mother of Sherri and Kevin Smith, and grandmother of Courtney, Tanis, Tory and Drake. Dear sister of Nancy and Wayne Farrell, aunt of Douglas (Liane), and Tracy (Jeff). Fondly remembered by her family and friends.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the **Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd.**, 127 Main St., Minden, Ontario www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com on Saturday, December 22, 2007 from 11:00 am until the time of the Funeral Service in the chapel 1:00 pm.

Reception to follow in the family centre at the Funeral Home. Cremation.

Memorial Donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

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We lost Mom on October 8th and Dad soon followed on December 1st. They were together through the good times and the bad for over 56 years. Floyd and Marg loved being a part of this community and will be missed by many, especially for those famous butter tarts that seemed to be in demand this time of year! The support we have received from this community has been incredible. We'd like to thank the doctors, nurses, paramedics, the staff at Community Care, Minden Hospital, Haliburton Hospital, Ross Memorial, Algonquin Highlands, Campbell's Flowers, Monk's Funeral Home, and the ladies who make the lunch after the service. A special thank you to those who said they would be honoured to be pallbearers. To all who sent flowers and donations, we felt and appreciated your support. A huge thank you to all of our relatives, friends, and coworkers for your phone calls, food contributions and above all your love and support. Thank you again.
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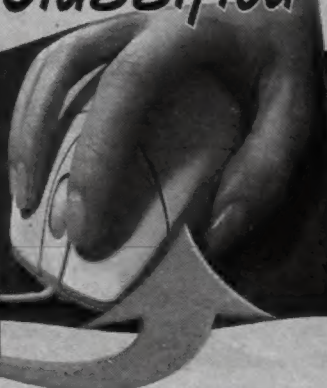
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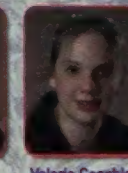
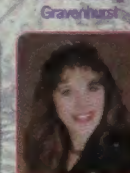
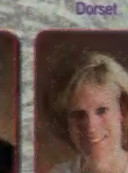
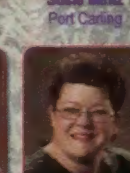
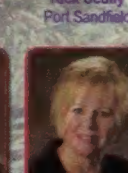
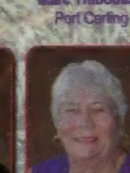
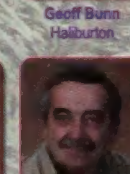
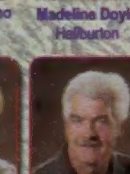
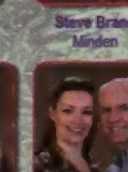
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